



Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce

12th Annual Awards Banquet

Friday, February 18, 2011

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank, you Jeffrey --

And, good evening, everyone!

It's great to be with you again this year -- to see so many friends here in support of the Chamber and the work it continues to do for our great State.

Let me begin by congratulating Jeffrey Cleveland on his new role as president and CEO of this fine organization, and the Board of Directors who are all working together to build the strongest, and best Chamber possible.

I'd also like to extend my congratulations to tonight's award recipients -- Health Choice Arizona, as the Corporate Business Partner of the Year, and SanTrac Technologies, as the Small Business Partner of the Year.

Both organizations are well deserving of this wonderful recognition and serve as great role models for future entrepreneurs and business leaders.

And, speaking of role models, let me also take a moment to thank Karl Gentles for his skill and guidance as a member of my ArizonaSERVES Task Force.

Thank you, Karl, for all you do on behalf of ArizonaSERVES as it spreads its message to the faith-based and community organizations.

The Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce serves a vital role in our collective economic future.

It's working to develop, grow, and advance business and economic opportunities for its members and businesses across the state. Tonight's theme, "Growing a New Generation of Leaders" is exactly what our state needs – a generation of creative business thinkers willing to do the hard work that leadership requires.

As you probably know, this past Monday – Arizona's 99th Birthday -- I called a Special Session of the Legislature to launch the ARIZONA COMPETITIVENESS PACKAGE -- a comprehensive bill that essentially marks the rebirth of Arizona.

And, thanks to the hard work, dedication and diligence of President Pearce and Speaker Adams – The Competitiveness Package – quickly passed, and I was pleased to sign it yesterday evening.

It sets in place the FIRST of my Four Cornerstones.

The Competitiveness Package includes codification of the Arizona Commerce Authority as a highly focused, highly privatized entity -- with a deal closing fund that our competitor states have.

It includes replacing our state enterprise zone laws with immediate tax incentives for quality job creation -- statewide.

And, it includes phased-in tax reform starting in 2014 to address those areas where we are not competitive with other states.

The Competitiveness Package will make Arizona a magnet for business expansion -- relocation -- capital formation -- and investment.

Focused on both urban and rural job creation, our agenda is based on a belief in the awesome power of free enterprise – private businesses finally freed to compete on the global stage.

The results will be employment -- personal income growth -- and prosperity for business -- and our citizens.

I believe the state can now become more competitive in attracting corporations from other states like California looking for a better operating environment, a better place to collaborate and grow, and most importantly create jobs for Arizonans.

We need your leadership in attracting those companies, advocating on behalf of the State of Arizona and to work with the Authority and other partners to ensure they choose Arizona over other locations.

They will need employees, contractors to build new buildings, provide information technology services, communications services, consultants and vendors to meet their business requirements.

That is why a vibrant and successful Chamber is so very important to the advancement of our economy and to our collective prosperity.

Let me close by emphasizing once again how important the work of the Chamber continues to be.

Developing our next generation of leaders and business owners will help our State meet the growing challenges of an increasingly competitive economy and world.

I applaud your work and efforts and look forward to our continued collaboration to make this state the greatest state in the nation where all can prosper, all can participate, and all can be successful in their chose path.

May God bless you and your families and our Great State of Arizona.

May God bless the work of the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce -- and may God always bless and protect the United States of America.

Thank you.